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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 64% Partly Cloudy Sensex 65,782 | Nifty 19,526 | Gold 59,200 | Silver 72,979 | Dollar 82.79 | Euro 90.47 | GBP 105.15

FUEL & FINAL

City hoteliers plead for reduction in fuel prices

PAGE 3

NOT LIMITLESS

Cameras, detectors to catch speedsters on highway

PAGE 5

Broken fence around a vast lake, dark path to a bus stop that must be reached on foot — not a plot for a horror film, just the condition of the area around Hebbal Lake

HELLO DARKNESS, MY OLD FRIEND

With no streetlights around the lake, walk to board BMTC bus is laden with dangers

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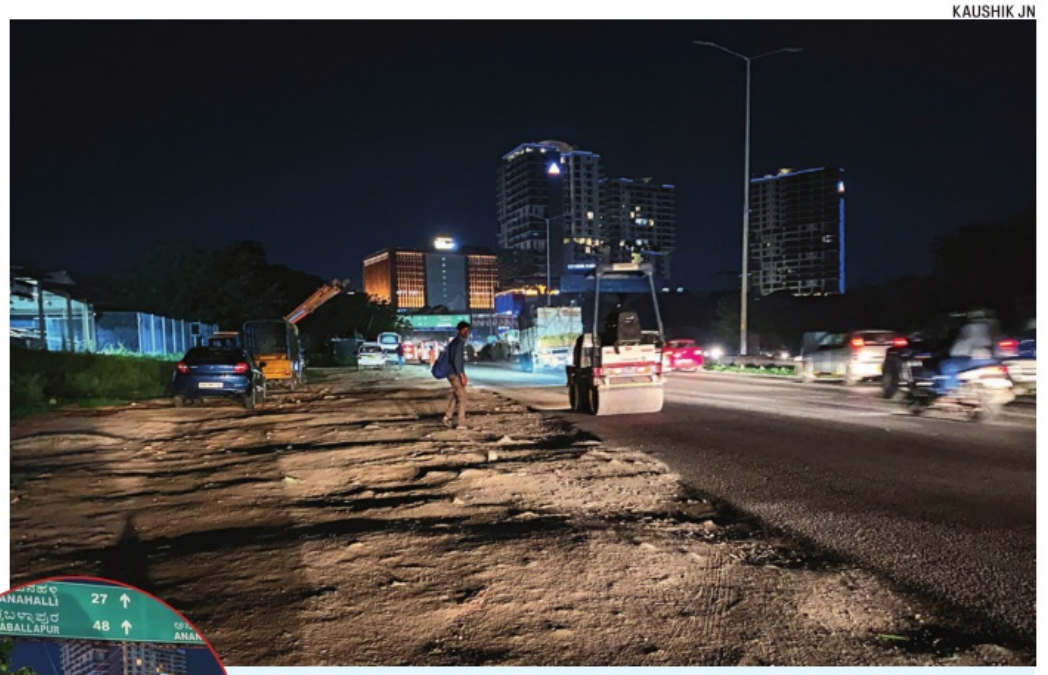
KAUSHIK JN



The condition near the Hebbal Lake is precarious. Neither is the fence around the lake in a good condition, nor are there lights on the path to ensure that no pedestrian faces the imminent risk of a fall into the lake.

Condition of the fence at the Hebbal Lake and the adjacent footpath seems to be a clear indication that there is no coordination between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the State Forest Department. The footpath along the fence on the service road towards Yelahanka is in a dilapidated condition even though it was upgraded barely a year ago.

Bangalore Mirror had reported about the pathetic condition of the footpath – Sidewinder – on June 17, 2022, narrating how dangerous it was for the pedestrians to walk on it.

Residents of the area told BM that BMTC commuters are compelled to get down below the Hebbal Flyover and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"I sent a proposal to higher authorities four months ago seeking funds for the maintenance of Hebbal Lake. As of now, we are maintaining it with zero budget. The higher authorities have not released funds for the last two years

– Hanumanthappa Patil, Range Forest Officer (North) of State Forest Department

Halt, who parks there?

3,132 cases in 6 months against vehicles parked at bus stops seems like tip of iceberg

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Bus stops are as the name suggests spaces for buses to stop. But, it seems like in a city with no parking space, all available space is for parking, and that includes bus stops. In the first six months of 2023, the traffic police have booked 3,132 cases against vehicles parked on BMTC bus stops.

When BM approached MN Anucheth, joint commissioner of police, traffic, he informed us that the cops have been making sure that all illegal parking violations are being booked. But it is not acting as much of a deterrent as at various bus stops across the city, citizens report that a long line of autos are parked at the stop.

"Mostly auto rickshaws and cabs are parked around the bus stops. No need to look far, the stop in front of 1MG mall is the best example and that is a one-way too. Baiyyappanahalli is also one such spot. The left turn towards SMVT is packed with autos that won't move till they are full, because they're sharing ones. Buses have changed their routes because of them," said Naman, a citizen.

Another Bengalurean Sachin said that mostly people park if they have to go for some quick errands. "If there are shops, restaurants or banks near bus stops, people tend to park their vehicles on the roadside, leading to congestion when buses stop

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Watch realism

Grab the chance to attend a puppet play that is for anyone over the age of 10. The play is based on a German folk tale and narrates the story of a young trickster, Tila, who thinks he is a grain of til (sesame). It employs magical realism and reveals a humorous side of his life. The play is directed by Michael Vogel. **Where: Ranga Shankara, 36/2, 8th Cross Road, RK Colony, 2nd Phase, JP Nagar When: August 8, 9 and 10; 7:30 pm**

02 Fest time

The Bengaluru Poetry Festival is back with its 7th edition. This time, poets across all languages, lyricists, singers, performers, and musicians are set to be part of this exclusive event. The event is being presented by Atta Galatta and will feature poets like Javed Akhtar and Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia inaugurating the festival.
Where: Grand Mercure Bengaluru, Gopalan Mall, Old Madras Road; When: August 5 and 6

Seeds for brighter future

MS Ramaiah Institute of Management, in collaboration with 'Halu Thene', organised a programme to make 15,000 seed balls. Around 200 students studying PGDBM at the MS Ramaiah Institute of Management, along with faculty members, made 15,000 seed balls containing custard apple, bela, bamboo, jamoon, and hibiscus seeds at the Halu Thene farm at Mallapur in Nelamangala taluk. After ten days, the students will throw these seed balls into the surrounding forest and barren land. Renowned science writer and environmentalist Nagesh Hegde, who was the chief guest of the programme, explained to the students the ill effects of human oppression on the environment and emphasised the importance of environmental protection and the need to hand over this land to our future generations. -BMB

Smooth journey: Metro to Hosur in the works

Chennai Metro Rail Ltd floats tender for feasibility study to extend Bengaluru Metro to Hosur; BMRCL's yellow line connecting Bommasandra and RV Road to be ready by Dec

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File photo of metro line connecting Electronic City, Bommasandra to RV Road on yellow line near Silk Board in Bengaluru

The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has floated a tender to conduct a feasibility study for the extension of the Bengaluru Metro to Hosur, which is located in Tamil Nadu.

The tender is likely to be opened on September 1. The consultant who bags the tender will have to provide a feasibility study report for introducing a mass rapid transit system that will connect Bommasandra near Electronic City with Hosur in Tamil Nadu.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Yellow Line, connecting Bommasandra and RV Road in South Bengaluru, is expected to be operational in December 2023.

The proposed metro connection between the two states spans 20.5 km, where 11.7 km will fall within the borders of Karnataka and the rest, 8.8 km, will fall under Tamil Nadu.

The feasibility study is required to take several significant factors into account, including the type of trains to be used, the estimated ridership on the route, the total cost of construction, as well as the alignment and locations of different stations. Known to be an industrial hub, Hosur witnesses the frequent movement of people as it houses giants such as Titan, Ashok Leyland, and TVS Motors, along with 2,000 MSMEs. People who live in the vicinity currently have to rely on overcrowded buses for travel.

On the other hand, experts are of the opinion that the connection between the two states must be made through a network of suburban rails, as they are primarily used for intercity linkages, unlike Metro rail, which caters to intra-city movement. Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company (K-RIDE), executing the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), has recently made a proposal to connect neighbouring cities and towns to Bengaluru, including a Heelalige-Hosur corridor measuring 23 km.

Consultant who bags the tender will have to provide a feasibility study report for introducing a mass rapid transit system

K-RIDE has asked for approval from the Union Ministry of Railways to conduct a pre-feasibility study for this expansion.

At present, details regarding the cost-sharing of the project are unclear. However, the Karnataka government has asked the Tamil Nadu administration to bear the costs of the feasibility study.

In May 2022, the state government approved plans of the Tamil Nadu government to conduct a feasibility study regarding the extension of the Bengaluru metro corridor to Hosur.

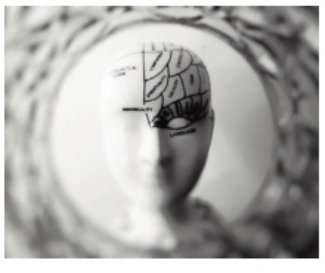
After receiving approval from the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the Tamil Nadu government sanctioned Rs 75 lakh for the study.

Embrace change while safeguarding mental health

In a collaborative effort, the Clinical Psychology Society of India (CPSI) and the Department of Clinical Psychology at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) are set to host a landmark conference. Titled 'Mental Health for a Changing World: New Challenges and Opportunities', the event will bring together a diverse array of mental health experts, professionals, and stakeholders under one roof.

It is scheduled to take place from August 10 to 12, 2023, at the NIMHANS Convention Centre. This conference marks the first-ever joint effort between CPSI and NIMHANS. The event aims to facilitate discussions on a wide spectrum of topics related to clinical psychology against the backdrop of a rapidly evolving world. With an ambitious goal of advancing mental health services across the country, the conference will provide a platform for the exchange of valuable insights, research findings, and innovative practices. The gathering will attract over 600 participants across the country, including mental health professionals, students, and research scholars.

The three-day conference promises a lineup of activities, featuring the participation of 80 distinguished speakers who will contribute to thought-provoking sessions. Attendees can anticipate engaging in six pre-conference workshops, over 10 invited talks, four interactive workshops, and 28 illuminating symposiums.



The conference will encompass a wide array of critical topics, including emerging trends in psychological interventions, the significance of psychological assessments in measuring meaningful outcomes, the role of clinical psychology in addressing conflicts, the psychology of climate change and peace, the impact of covid-19 on mental health, innovative community-centred interventions, the digital revolution's influence on mental health, the integration of indigenous methods in psychological science, trauma-informed practices, the intersection of forensic and legal frameworks with mental health, and more. The diverse range of sessions and topics aspires to stimulate knowledge exchange, foster interdisciplinary collaborations, and explore pioneering research and best practices within the realm of clinical psychology. — BMB

Hoteliers' plea: Stop the rise and rise of fuel price

Restaurateurs write to PM, Minister to get grip on soaring prices

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City hoteliers have now joined the chorus demanding a reduction in fuel prices. The Bruhat Bengaluru Hotel Association has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to reduce the price as it will have a spiralling effect and stop the rising prices.

Association president PC Rao said, "We request the PM's urgent intervention to alleviate the burden placed upon all the citizens and businessmen by decreasing the fuel rates. As you are aware, fuel is an essential commodity that impacts the daily lives of every citizen in our nation. The escalating fuel costs have a ripple effect on the economy, with soaring transportation costs affecting the prices of goods and services across various sectors. We understand that fuel prices are influenced by various factors, including international oil prices and taxation policies."

The crude oil rate has come down from 134 dollars to 72 dollars at present. Similarly, the LPG rate has also come down by 50 dollars. But surprisingly, the government has not reduced the selling rate. Moreover, the GST on commercial LPG is 18%, whereas on domestic cylinders it is 5%, he added.

"We request that you kindly reduce the GST on commercial LPG to 5%. We suggest exploring avenues to reduce taxes and levies associated with fuels, which are nearly 60% and very abnormal. Moreover, we have already explained the decrease in fuel costs in the international market by several dollars. We urge you to promote greater transparency and accountability in the pricing mechanisms of petroleum products. In conclusion, we implore you to consider all the above facts and figures and take immediate action to decrease fuel rates," he explained.

If we look at the fuel price, which has been static for a long time, Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has the lowest petrol price at Rs 84.10 per litre, while Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh has the highest petrol price at Rs 111.87 per litre. Bengaluru, with a petrol price of Rs 101.94 per litre, ranks 14th in terms of petrol price among the cities in the country. On the other hand, the city with the highest diesel price is Kavaratti (Lakshadweep) at 103.08 Rs/litre, and the city with the lowest diesel price is Port Blair.

Tomato prices to remain high for fortnight

Meanwhile, there is no news of tomato prices coming down in the near future. Traders say that it might take a fortnight before the prices actually soften down. CMR Srinath, a major tomato seller in Kolar, said, "The tomato prices started rising in June and are still higher now. The prices increased further from June 15, and one box was then sold for Rs 2,700, which is a record. It is expected that the prices may be higher for the next fortnight." Traders say that the prices of tomatoes are so high that each tomato will cost Rs 20.

Some of the tomato sellers in the state are hiring bouncers to keep an eye out for thefts

Room with a 'skewed view': All booked out

Former KAS officer accuses IAS officers of misusing rooms at KAS Officers' Association

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If the letter written by retired Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) officer K Mathai is any indication, it seems all is not well in the KAS Officers' Association. It is alleged that a few IAS officers are misusing the rooms available at the KAS Officers' Association office situated on Infantry Road.

K Mathai, president of the Karnataka State Retired Officers Foundation, has blamed a few KAS officers who are reluctant to move out of Bengaluru and wanted postings at the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and Vidhana Soudha are allowing IAS officers to misuse rooms at the KAS Officers' Association. He said these KAS officers wanted IAS officers' favour to get posted in Bengaluru.

Mathai wrote a letter on July 31 to the KAS Officers' Association president about the illegal allotment of rooms to IAS officers.

"I requested the allotment of a room for my personal use on July 27, but the staff have refused to allot the room as seven out of eight rooms were already booked for IAS officer Javed Akhtar, who has pressurised the KAS Officers' Association office for the allotment of seven rooms for five days, which is highly irregular and illegal. Several such instances have taken place in the past where life members of the KAS Officers' Association were refused rooms to facilitate the rooms available for the IAS Officers," Mathai said in the letter.

He added that the IAS Officers' Association is headed by a retired IAS officer for better administration, as serving IAS officers cannot concentrate on IAS Officers' Association activities due to official commitments.

KAS Officers' Association office on Infantry Road

> **"I requested the allotment of a room for my personal use on July 27, but the staff have refused to allot the room as seven out of eight rooms were already booked** –K Mathai

"On the same pattern, the KAS Officers' Association should also be allowed to be administered by willing and capable KAS officers for better administration of its various facilities as the serving KAS officers remain busy with their official commitment," he explained.

He said a sports meet was held for KAS officers in 2020, but the prizes are yet to be distributed among the winners.

Ganapathi Kattin, a retired KAS officer, said that he too had a similar experience when he tried to book a room for him. "The staff at the KAS Officers' Association told me that all the rooms are occupied. They did not bother to tell me who had occupied the rooms. I wanted to book the room because it is not only safe but also economical. The KAS Officers' Association collects only Rs 200 per day towards room rent," said Ganapathi Kattin.

Meanwhile, Dr Ravi M Tirlapur, president, KAS Officers' Association, said there are occasions where KAS officers use the facilities of the IAS Officers' Association. "Allotting rooms to IAS officers is not illegal," said Dr Tirlapur. Moreover, he confirmed the booking of rooms by IAS officer Javed Akhtar.

HC asks BBMP, BWSSB for joint report on encroachments

The Chief Commissioner of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) appeared before the High Court of Karnataka and submitted a 109-page compliance report with regard to the action taken to remove encroachments on storm water drains (SWDs) in the city.

The Secretary to the Urban Development Department (UDD) was also present in court, which directed all the respondents, including the BBMP, Revenue Department, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, to file a joint action report within four weeks and adjourned the hearing to September 4.

The division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice MGS Kamal on Tuesday was hearing a public interest litigation filed in 2014 by the Citizen Action Group, which was also directed by the court to give their suggestions.

The compliance report by BBMP stated that the report of the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), an autonomous institute established by the Karnataka government, and the interim report of the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) regarding conservation of lakes and SWDs have been accepted by the BBMP and are being implemented. The final NEERI report is awaited.

It said that of the 202 lakes, a survey has been conducted on 160 of them. Of these, 21 are without any encroachment, and 19 are in disuse. Bellandur and Varthur lakes are under the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), while Hebbal, Puttenahalli, and Nagawara lakes are under the Forest Department. Out of the remaining 42 lakes, a survey is being undertaken. As many as 160 lakes have been fully fenced, while 23 are partially fenced.

Encroachment on 160 lakes has been identified, and the Revenue Department has been informed to clear them. As many as 114 lakes have been developed, and their maintenance has been entrusted to contractors through tenders. Home guard surveillance 24/7 is in place, and Rs 5 crore is earmarked for CCTVs, according to the report.

Citizens can file complaints on the 'Sahaaya' app, and on average, 325 complaints per day are being received.

–PTI

‘Path not taken’: Haralur road seeks immediate fix

Uneven, muddy road with numerous potholes, causing frequent minor accidents

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Despite repeated highlighting of the matter, BBMP officials are yet to asphalt the road

In June, Bellandur traffic police wrote a letter to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) requesting the urgent restoration of Haralur road, which has been in a deplorable condition for over a year. Despite multiple instances of road digging to lay underground pipelines in recent months, only temporary repairs have been done, leading to significant commuting difficulties for thousands of regular commuters and causing daily long-hour traffic congestion.

The Bellandur traffic police highlighted in their letter that the ongoing work of Phase-2 A Metro from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram has resulted in traffic congestion on the outer ring road. They emphasised that restoring Haralur Road would be beneficial for commuters to access areas like Sarjapur Road and Hosa Road.

Although the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) completed laying the UGD pipelines, the road remains unrestored after the dug-up, prompting police officials to urge BBMP to address the issue and ensure smoother traffic flow.

Despite repeated highlighting of the matter, BBMP officials are yet to asphalt the road. Presently, the road is uneven, muddy stretch with numerous potholes, causing frequent minor accidents, as complained by residents. School buses also ply on Haralur Road, and the uneven surface slows down the movement of vehicles, resulting in a complete traffic jam that stretches approximately 1.5 to 2 kilometres during peak hours. The stretch from Birla junction to Sarjapur road has been particularly affected by poor road conditions. Vishnu Prasad from Bellandur Development Forum said, “Due to constant cutting open of the road and laying underground pipelines in many stretches in Bellandur ward, it has resulted in a bad stretch. Haralur Road serves as a major route connecting Sarjapur and Hosa Road. However, the roads in the Haralur ward have not been restored and asphalted to ensure smooth traffic movement.

Moreover, the concerned ward engineers have been transferred, leaving us unsure about whom to contact and complain regarding the road issue. This is significantly impacting vehicle movement, and even after the traffic police highlighted the need for restoration, it hasn’t been taken up.” Another resident said, “The Haralur road is neglected, resulting in added work for the traffic police. Due to ongoing Metro works, it has become an alternative road for many motorists bypassing Silkboard-Agara to reach Bellandur, resulting in overcrowding. Unfortunately, Haralur Road has been in a pathetic shape for many months.”

> **“Constant cutting open of the road and laying underground pipelines has resulted in bad stretch** – Vishnu Prasad, Bellandur Development Forum

Residents tried to contact officials to inquire about the delay in restoration, and they were informed that the budget allocation had frozen, leading contractors to refrain from fixing the issue. However, citizens questioned why they should bear the brunt of delayed amenities when they diligently pay taxes and expect smooth and safe roads for their daily commute.

When BM contacted the BBMP officials from the Mahadevpura zone and they remained unresponsive to a comment.

BBMP or forest department, whose lake is this?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

walk half kilometre to board a BMTC bus near Esteem Mall as there is no direct bus facility from Goraguntepalya towards Esteem Mall. “There are no lights on the footpaths beside the lake and with the gaps on the lake side, people walking may fall into the lake especially when it is raining. It has become tough for the commuters who want to board a BMTC bus to proceed towards Byatarayanapura, Yelahanka, and surrounding places,” said Selwyn Mascarenhas, a resident of the area.

Residents of Hebbal and pedestrians expressed concern over the delay in fixing the problem as it has persisted for over a year now. Deputy Forest Range Officer Shivaraju S had told Bangalore Mirror on June 16, 2022, that he had sent the proposal to higher authorities seeking funds eight months ago.

Expressing a similar opinion, Mohan Krishna, a pedestrian, said that it would be dangerous for pedestrians to walk on the footpath adjacent to Hebbal Lake. “I appeal to the authorities concerned to repair the street lights and fix the fence for the benefit of pedestrians,” said Mohan Krishna.

No interest

The delay in allocating funds for the maintenance of Hebbal Lake indicates that the forest department is not interested in maintaining the lake. Coming down heavily on the BBMP for not maintaining the street lights on the service road, HM Venkatesh, a social activist from Judicial Layout, demanded that the street lights be repaired without any further delay. “Many women also use

the stretch to reach the bus stop opposite Esteem Mall to board Yelahanka or Airport-bound BMTC buses at night. But should the authorities concerned wait to act only after an unfortunate incident takes place?” said Venkatesh.

Zero budget

When informed about the condition, Range Forest Officer (North) of State Forest Department Hanumanthappa Patil told BM that he was aware of the broken fence and defunct street lights.

“I know the street lights on service roads are not functioning. The BBMP has to maintain the street lights and the footpath. I sent a proposal to higher authorities four months ago seeking funds for the maintenance of Hebbal Lake. As of now, we are maintaining Hebbal Lake with zero budget. The higher authorities have not released funds for the last two years. There is a proposal to repair the broken fence and construct a compound wall but there are no funds,” said Hanumanthappa Patil.

He said that he would take measures to repair the broken fence and clear garbage thrown into the lake.

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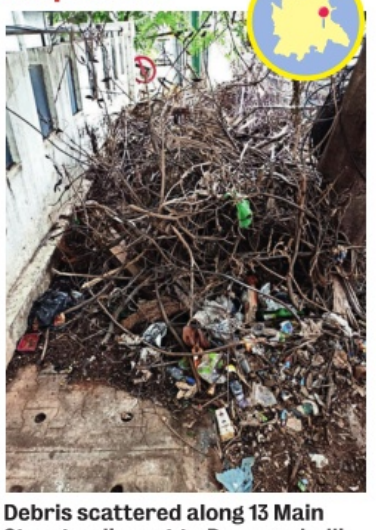
Trash pileup

Promenade Road

The trash piled up next to the roadside on Promenade Road near Lakeside Hospital causing difficulty for people.

Debris worry

Doopanahalli



Debris scattered along 13 Main Street, adjacent to Doopanahalli area, raising environmental concerns.

Cable chaos

HSR layout

HSR Layout grapples with cable menace as tangled wires pose safety challenges.

Here's looking at you, speed devils

Cameras, speed detectors deployed on Nelamangala highway as accident count rises

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If you are driving on the Nelamangala highway (which leads to Mumbai), then think twice before stepping on the gas, as the police and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have installed Automatic number-plate recognition (ANPR) systems to detect traffic violations. The Nelamangala highway is part of NH 48 that connects Chennai to Delhi via Bengaluru and Mumbai and it is also the most important connecting road for Bengaluru, serving as the vital link for the Karnataka capital city to 24 districts.

In the last few months, this highway stretch has become accident-prone and the road passing via Bengaluru City is the worst accident spot. According to the data, in July alone, there were 67 accidents in Bengaluru, 49 in Bengaluru Rural, and 48 in Tumakuru.

Additional Director General of Police (Traffic and Road Safety) Alok Kumar inspected the spot on Wednesday and discussed with NHAI authorities how to reduce accidents on this stretch. He said that with data captured from ANPR cameras, the police are analysing the reasons for accidents and keeping an eye on vehicles causing them.

"The main reasons for the accidents are the lack of signboards, rash driving, and potholes. We visited the black spots and discussed the corrective measures to be taken." An official said that while there has been a lot of attention on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, the Nelamangala road is equally dangerous for motorists, and hence there is a need to take measures. The police claim that after taking corrective steps on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, the accidents have relatively reduced, and now they have shifted their focus to this highway.

Strict penalties

Officials said the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for strict penalties to ensure compliance and enhance deterrence to violation of traffic rules and strict enforcement through use of technology. The rules specify the provisions for placement of electronic enforcement devices (speed camera, closed-circuit television camera, speed gun, body wearable and dashboard camera, ANPR, weigh in machine (WIM) to keep an eye on violations.

Defunct speed detectors

Meanwhile, speed detectors, which were installed on the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, have stopped working just four days after installation. These solar-powered speed detectors were placed at each lane entrance of the expressway to give a sneak peek and a warning to the vehicle users, showing them how much speed they were traveling at. Even Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had visited the spot and inspected it recently. The speed detectors were programmed in such a way that if a vehicle on the extreme left lane crossed 60 kmph, it would turn red to warn the driver to slow down, while it would turn red if the driver on the middle lane crossed 80 kmph and 100 kmph on the extreme right lane.

Pitch for tunnels?

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has once again pitched for tunnel roads in the city. He asked Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari to take steps on the national highways crossing Bengaluru City.

Mobile snatchers nabbed

A few days ago, a delivery executive's mobile phone was snatched in Suddaguntepalya police station limits. During the snatching, the vicitm's bike skidded and he fell and broke his hand. Later, he registered a case with the Sadduguntepalya police station. Taking the case seriously, the police formed a special team and arrested the accused. As many as 32 mobile snatching cases emerged after questioning the accused. Suddagunte Palya Police have recovered 25 mobile phones and are continuing to interrogate the accused. **BMB**

Baby swallows charger pin, dies

An eight-month-old baby has died of electrocution after she chewed the pin of a mobile charger wire that was connected to a switchboard socket. The incident happened in Siddarada village of Karwar in Uttara Kannada on Wednesday. The deceased — Sanidhya Kalgutkar, was the daughter of Santhosh Kalgutkar and Sanjana Kalgutkar.

According to the police, the mobile charger was left connected to the socket and the switch was not turned off. The baby who got hold of the wire started chewing the wire pin and got electrocuted. The family members had immediately shifted her to the district hospital but the doctors declared the baby brought dead. Her father, Santhosh Kalgutak, works with Hubballi Electricity Supply Company (Hescom) and after coming to know about the incident, he had collapsed at the workplace. **IANS**

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Activity	Tentative Dates PO/MT	Tentative Dates Specialist Officers
On-line registration including Edit/ Modification of Application by candidates	01.08.2023 to 21.08.2023	01.08.2023 to 21.08.2023
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online)	01.08.2023 to 21.08.2023	01.08.2023 to 21.08.2023
Download of call letters for Pre- Exam Training*	September 2023	-----
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training*	September 2023	-----
Download of call letters for Online examination- Preliminary	September 2023	December 2023
Online Examination – Preliminary	September/ October 2023	December 2023
Result of Online exam – Preliminary	October 2023	January 2024
Download of Call letter for Online exam – Main	October/ November 2023	January 2024
Online Examination – Main	November 2023	January 2024
Declaration of Result – Main	December 2023	February 2024
Download of call letters for interview	January/ February 2024	February/ March 2024
Conduct of interview	January/ February 2024	February/ March 2024
Provisional Allotment	April 2024	April 2024

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Mumbai
Date: 01.08.2023 DIRECTOR

Green or red? Experts' thumbs-down to bill

Will BD (Amendment) bill be pro-business or pro-conservation?

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The BD (Amendment) Bill, 2023, passed by parliament on Tuesday

The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2023, passed by parliament on Tuesday, has led to significant backlash from city-based conservationists and ecologists. Experts say if the bill becomes an act, it will be detrimental to biodiversity conservation. The bill, introduced in 2021 by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, after receiving President's assent would amend the Biological Diversity (BD) Act, 2002.

According to the government, the amendment to BD Act will boost the Indian system of medicine, will make the environmental research process simpler, encourage the cultivation of wild medicinal plants, and facilitate businesses using 'codified' traditional knowledge.

However, experts highlight some proposals made in the Bill such as decriminalisation of violations under the BD Act, exemption from the provision of access benefit sharing (ABS), and permission needed from the state biodiversity board for commercial utilisation of bioresources. Experts also say this amendment will not only lead to over-exploitation of biological resources, but exemption to companies from paying ABS fees will imply monetary benefits not reaching local communities.

"The Bill, if it receives the President's assent, will impact biodiversity negatively. The BD Act has been somewhat beneficial in its current form. However, if amended, it will become toothless. The companies accessing biological resources have already been finding loopholes to get away with not paying ABS fees, now they will be scot-free. The Act should have been amended to provide more power to the state and national biodiversity boards and authorities. Instead, they have been stripped of all power," said a city-based biodiversity expert.

In its current form, the BD Act does not allow any person to obtain biological resources for commercial utilisation without prior intimation to the state biodiversity board. However, the amendment will allow domestic companies to use resources without any permission. Those using codified traditional knowledge for the Indian system of medicine will be out of the ambit of ABS, implying, these companies need not share benefits with local communities.

"The term 'codified traditional knowledge' can be applied to any form of biological resource. Technically speaking, resources mentioned in the People's Biodiversity Register can also be considered 'codified'. The formulations that industries use are from some or the other scripture. The state biodiversity board, which is Karnataka Biodiversity Board, will now have to look for loopholes to bring in businesses under BAS," said the expert.

> **BD Act does not allow any person to obtain biological resources for commercial utilisation without prior intimation to the state biodiversity board**
>
> –City-based biodiversity expert

Experts also fear the changed Act will lead to over exploitation of resources. They say the Bill appears to be rich in rhetoric and is pro-business rather than pro-conservation.

"The current BD Act has a clause that mandates businesses to leave 25% of the resources they are utilising untouched. This is to ensure the rejuvenation, regeneration, and proliferation of these resources. However, now that companies need not seek approval from state biodiversity boards or the National Biodiversity Authority, how will the government regulate the resources? This amendment, which appears to be lacking substance, will lead to over-exploitation of biological resources. While it claims to benefit the Indian system of medicine, this benefit will also not last long as it is not sustainable," said Akshay Heblikar, founder of Eco Watch and another member of Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee.

Chorus to stop jumbo shockers gathers steam

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Measures to be taken to save elephants from electrocution

The recent spike in elephant deaths in Karnataka due to electrocution has raised concerns. The Karnataka Forest Department has decided to hold a meeting with power-supplying companies to discuss the issue of illegal tapping of power lines.

"We are soon scheduling a meeting with BESCOM, HESCOM, and other electricity supply companies in the state to discuss this issue. There are guidelines given by the center to ensure that illegal tapping does not happen in the forest fringe areas. The meeting is being held to understand reasons behind unchecked illegal tapping," said Saswati Mishra, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, KFD.

A tusker electrocuted in Kodagu (Virajpet) on Sunday has once again raised concerns regarding the high number of elephant deaths due to electrocution. In two most recent cases of electrocution, an elephant was found electrocuted in Kurubarahundi village and a tusker was electrocuted on July 30 in Virajpet, Kodagu district.

According to elephant and wildlife conservationists, barrier assessment of conflict-prone areas must be conducted at regular intervals, preferably at every five years' gap.

"We conducted a barrier assessment of nearly 50 kilometres in Kodagu in 2015 and submitted a report to the then chief conservator of forest. Our study showed that nearly 94% of the barriers spread over 44.3 kilometres were prone to elephant entry. Based on the report, KFD proposed a budget for the repair work, and the damaged barriers were restored. However, barriers in the Virajpet area were recorded to be in good condition back in 2015. KFD should consider re-assessment of barriers in the area to understand their effectiveness," said Ramesh Belagere, wildlife researcher, Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

According to KFD officials, while no barrier analysis has taken place after the comprehensive analysis of 2015, the department is in the process of collecting a division-wise report on elephant barriers.

"We are in the process of collecting information on all divisions regarding the type of barrier and the status of the barrier to have a state-level understanding of their effectiveness. This report will also help us in allocating funds for the creation of new barriers and the maintenance of existing ones. The report should be ready in a month," informed Mishra.

While KFD is working towards ensuring peaceful coexistence, it is time for a paradigm shift with private players contributing to the larger environment and wildlife conservation goals.

"To make a better sense of the unnatural death numbers, we need to have natality and mortality rates along with population and sub-population dynamics. Conflict-related deaths are accidental and unpredictable. However, these cases and deaths can be reduced to a large extent if private players lead conservation efforts and help the department in mitigating conflicts. Human-elephant conflict is related to land management issues and we need to drift away from the number game to focus on causative factors." said Avinash Krishnan, DSConservation, A Rocha India.

Foxconn and state sign on dotted line for 2 projects

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Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil announced on Wednesday that the Karnataka government and iPhone maker Foxconn have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for two projects. It involves an estimated investment of Rs. 5,000 crore and will create 13,000 jobs. These projects are in addition to the iPhone end assembly plant that the Taiwanese company plans to set up at Devanahalli ITIR with an investment of about Rs. 14,000 crore. The signing formalities took place at a private hotel in Chennai on Monday, with Foxconn Chairman Young Liu and State IT/BT Minister Priyanka Kharge present on the occasion.

LOI projects are Phone Enclosure and Semicon Equipment

One of the intended projects is the Phone Enclosure project, for which FII (Foxconn Industrialist Internet), a Foxconn subsidiary, will invest Rs. 3,000 crore ($350 million), creating an estimated 12,000 employment opportunities. The other project is the Semicon Equipment project, in which Foxconn will invest Rs. 2,000 crore ($250 million) in collaboration with Applied Materials, likely generating 1000 jobs. The Letter of Intent (LoI) outlines the framework for the proposed two projects that Foxconn plans to establish in the state. The Phone Enclosure unit will engage in manufacturing sub-assembly components for smartphones, specifically mechanical enclosures of iPhones, officials said.

The Semicon Equipment Manufacturing project, in collaboration with Applied Materials, aims to establish a production unit for semiconductor manufacturing equipment. The location for this project is likely to be finalised at the Haraluru Muddenahalli - Hi-Tech Aerospace and Defence Park-Phase II in Bengaluru Rural district, where Foxconn has sought a 35-acre plot.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka government and US-based International Battery Company (IBC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday to set up a recyclable Lithium-ion battery manufacturing unit with an investment of Rs. 8,000 crore (USD 1 billion) in the state. IBC India Pvt. Ltd., President Venkatesh Valluri, and Principal Secretary for the Department of Commerce and Industries Dr Selvakumar signed and exchanged the MoU in the presence of Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil.

HEALTH TIP: A study found that women who had sedentary lifestyles were more likely to experience severe menopausal symptoms

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AI can help detect disease, but we don't yet know if it can improve survival rates

AI EYE ON BREAST CANCER

Around one in seven Australian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their life, with 20,000 new breast cancers diagnosed each week.

Mammograms are a key detection tool for early-stage breast cancer and involve placing the breast tissue between two plates and then doing an x-ray.

Scans from mammograms are usually analysed by two doctors. But a Swedish study, published today in the Lancet, found using artificial intelligence (AI) to help analyse the scans detected 20 per cent more cancers and reduced the workload by 44 per cent.

However there is a risk it could detect small cancers in women that would never cause harm, resulting in unnecessary treatment.

How are breast cancers currently detected?

Breast screening using mammography was introduced in Australia more than 30 years ago to detect cancers earlier, allowing more effective and often less invasive treatments. Free mammograms are available to women over the age of 40 and are recommended for all women aged 50-74.

Currently, a mammogram is studied (or "read") by two doctors (called radiologists) who decide whether the mammogram looks normal or not. If any abnormality is seen, the woman is referred for further tests to a BreastScreen assessment clinic. These tests may include more mammograms, ultrasounds, needle biopsies and sometimes surgery.

Most of those referred are cleared of cancer, but around one in ten are eventually diagnosed with breast cancer.

This reading and assessment requires a lot of expertise and time, and is performed by an ageing and diminishing workforce who are retiring and leaving the profession. Coupled with a growing population eligible for screening, this adds up to a perfect test bed for an AI solution.

What did the researchers test?

The Swedish study followed 80,000 women aged 40–80 attending a screening programme in one area of Sweden.

The researchers set out to test whether AI could better direct a radiologist's attention to a suspicious, but often very subtle, abnormal area on a mammogram, using a commercially available AI-supported mammogram reading system.

They also looked at whether using AI could replace one of the two radiologists who normally read the mammogram. This would make the process more efficient.

The study was randomised so half of the women received normal screening protocols and the other half the AI-assisted protocol.

So what did they find?

The early findings are very encouraging. In those in whom AI was used, if the AI suggested a suspicious area, the mammogram was still read by two radiologists. But if the AI did not see a suspicious area then only one "live" radiologist read the mammogram.

This saved nearly six months of radiologists' time. There were 36,886 fewer screenings read by radiologists in the AI supported group (46,345 vs 83,231), resulting in a 44 per cent reduction in the radiologists' screening workload.

Using the AI software to direct the radiologist attention to abnormal areas also seemed to improve the accuracy of their reading. The AI-assisted reading meant slightly more women were referred for further assessment (2.2 per cent versus 2 per cent) and of those assessed from the AI group, more cancers were seen.

In total, 244 women (28 per cent) from the AI-supported group were found to have cancer, compared to 203 women (25 per cent) in the standard double reading without AI.

Overall, the AI program picked up one extra cancer for each 1,000 women screened (six per 1,000 vs five per 1,000).

Risk of overdiagnosis

But just detecting more cancers is not necessarily a good thing if the cancers found are tiny, non-aggressive tumours that may never grow to harm the woman.

Of course what we really want to know is can any new test improve survival from cancer – and make the burden of treatment easier.

"Interval cancers" are faster-growing aggressive cancers that turn up between mammograms. Studies often use the detection of interval cancers as a surrogate for improving cancer survival. But it's unclear if AI can detect more of these interval cancers.

Until we understand more about these extra cancers the AI detects, these remain open questions.

So, despite the positive signals from this study, we are still not ready to use it in our screening programs without more mature data from this and other work, including data that currently is being collected.

(By James Stewart Chair, The University of Melbourne, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

Sleep and gut

Irregular sleep
According to new research, inconsistent sleep habits are linked to hazardous microorganisms in your gut.

Even minor discrepancies can affect rhythm
Working shifts have been found in previous studies to disturb the biological clock and raise the risk of weight gain, cardiac issues, and diabetes.
However, there is less awareness that modest discrepancies in sleeping habits, such as getting up early with an alarm clock on workdays vs waking up naturally on non-workdays, might impact our biological rhythms.

Linked to gut bacteria
Dr Wendy Hall, senior author at King's College London, stated, "We know that major disruptions in sleep, such as shift work, can have a profound impact on your health. This is the first study to show that even small differences in sleep timings across the week seems to be linked to differences in gut bacterial species. Some of these associations were linked to dietary differences but our data also indicates that other, as yet unknown, factors may be involved."

Importance of gut microbes
The composition of the microbes in your gut (microbiome) may negatively or positively affect your health by producing toxins or beneficial metabolites. Specific species of microbes can correspond to an individual's risk of long-term health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity. The microbiome is influenced by the food you consume.

Midpoint of sleep
Researchers found that just a 90-minute difference in the timing of the midpoint of sleep – the halfway point between sleep time and wake-up time – is associated with differences in gut microbiome composition.

—ANI

MIRRORLIGHTS

Unhappy family or trauma in youth leads to poor health in old age: Research

Adverse childhood experiences, particularly those involving violence, have repercussions later in life that include both physical and mental impairments.

It's known that a difficult childhood can lead to a host of health issues as a young or midlife adult, but now, for the first time, researchers at UC San Francisco have linked adverse experiences early in life to lifelong health consequences. They found that older U.S. adults with a history of stressful or traumatic experiences as children were more likely to experience both physical and cognitive impairments in their senior years. Stressful childhood experiences could include exposure to physical violence or abuse, severe illness, family financial stress or being separated from parents.

The study, which appears Aug. 2, 2023, in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, found that those who experienced violence in childhood were 40% more likely to have mobility impairment and 80% more likely to have difficulty with daily activities. Those who came from unhappy families were 40% more likely to have at last mild cognitive impairment.

"We looked at self-reported disability, as well as objectively measured physical and cognitive impairment, and learned that early life stressful experiences can have ramifications all the way into older age," said senior author Alison J. Huang, MD, a UCSF professor of medicine and director of research in General Internal Medicine at UCSF Health.

"This can mean a higher likelihood of difficulty walking, or carrying out activities of daily living, or problems with memory when people are in their 60s, 70s, 80s, or older," she said.

Root cause for a lifetime of ailments: Almost 60 percent of adults in the U.S. have experienced one or more types of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that can undermine a child's sense of safety or stability, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is associated with chronic physical and mental health issues, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, autoimmune disease and depression. But there's little research documenting health implications of ACEs across the full lifespan, even though older adults bear the greatest burden of most health conditions.

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Autos park near bus stops 'to look for passengers'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there. This is mostly because the roads are narrow," he said.

He said that autorickshaw drivers tend to stop or move slowly near bus stops, hoping to get passengers. "Some private vans and buses also pick up passengers from bus stops. All this causes roadblocks and congestion near bus stops."

Rajkumar Dugar, Founder & Convenor, Citizens For Citizens (C4C), explained that bus stands can be in bus shelters or in bus bays. "Bus bays are generally outside the moving vehicle's way, so one can see that 90% of the time, vehicles are parked there. It's very evident on Cunningham Road, and other places where there is a bus bay. When BMTC buses come to the bus bay, they have to park outside because even if one vehicle is inside, it's difficult for BMTC buses to get in and out," he said.

He added that it was difficult for BMTC buses to be parked near bus shelters because of moving vehicles.

"There is also a long line of autos near the shelters. Outside the city railway station, one can see autos parked in three lines," added Dugar.

Blocking order: Twitter appeals in HC against dismissal of its plea

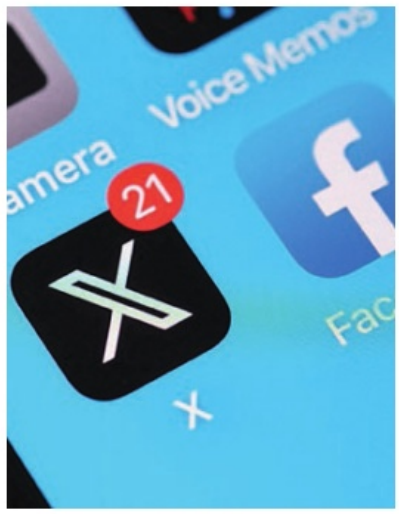
 # Bengaluru

Microblogging site Twitter (now X Corp) has approached the High Court of Karnataka against the earlier order of a single judge bench which had dismissed its petition challenging the Centre's blocking orders. The single judge bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit had also imposed a cost of Rs 50 lakh on Twitter in its judgement on June 30.

The appeal filed by Twitter will come up before a division bench of the High Court.

Twitter's main contention was that Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) had issued blocking orders under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act without issuing notice to the account holders.

The appeal filed on August 1 is yet to be listed for hearing by the High Court. The appeal challenges the imposition of the Rs 50 lakh cost as "unjust and excessive" and has sought an interim relief of keeping it in suspension.



Twitter was ordered to pay the fine within August 14 by the single judge bench. The order had also specified that if Twitter fails to comply, an additional fine of Rs 5,000 per day will be imposed on it.

Twitter had claimed that the government had between February 2, 2021 and February 28, 2022 issued 10 Government orders directing it to block 1,474 accounts, 175 Tweets, 256 URLs and one hashtag. Twitter challenged the orders related to 39 of these URLs.

The High Court single judge bench had framed eight questions and only the question of locus standi for filing the petition was answered in favour of Twitter.

The Court had rejected all contentions of Twitter and imposed the cost on it.

The Court had pointed to Twitter not complying with the government orders for more than a year and then approaching it. . —PTI

Your Connect

I, Gajanan Pralhad Deshpande, S/o. Pralhad Vishnupant Deshpande, residing at Plot No. 149/150, Reshmi Rise Apartments, 80 ft Road, Kempegowda Road, 3rd Block, 4th stage, Near HDFC bank, BEML Layout, Rajareshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098, have changed my minor daughter's name from TITIKSHA to TITIKSHA GAJANAN DESHPANDE, vide affidavit dated 28.07.2023, sworn before notary K.V Prema Kumari, Bangalore.

I, Ameena Musarath Mohammed Sanaulla w/o Mohamed Sanaulla R/o 16/1/A, Mathru layout, 1st cross, Yelahanka new town, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Ameena Musarath Nale Subhan affidavit Dt.02/08/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Venkataswamy Anjanappa Malur S/O, Anjanappa Also Known As Anjanappa Malur R/o N0-180-213-1,komala Nilaya,sbm Road,nehru Extn,,malur,kgf(kolar)-563130 have changed my name to Venkatashamy Anjanappa Malur for all purposes.

I Bhagya Lakshmi Padmanabha W/O, Anantha Padmanabha R/o No 37 1st A Cross 5th Block 3rd Phase Kamakya Theatre Banashankari 3rd Stage Bangalore 560085 have changed my name to Bhagya Lakshmi D N for all purposes.

I Akshata W/O, Sharath Kashyap Ramesh R/o 18,skanda Nilaya, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Pnb Layout Doddakallasandra , Bengaluru, have changed my name to Akshata M for all purposes. M in Akshata M stands for Mundargi

I Chiranjeevi S/O, Sathyanarayana R/o 47, South End Road, Tata Silk Farm, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004 have changed my name to Chiranjeevi S

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I Laxmipathi Jayaramu Kunigal S/O, Jayaramu.k.v R/o N0-235,near Veerabhadreshwara Chowltry,jodi Krishna Raja Sagara Agrahara,kunigal-572130 have changed my name to Lakshmipathi Jayaramu Kunigal for all purposes.

I, Mohamed Sanaulla R/o 16/1/A, Mathru layout, 1st cross, Yelahanka new town, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my minor daughter name from Shahana Tasneem Sanaulla to Shahana Tasneem affidavit Dt.02/08/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Dhipa Jacob R/o Villa# B05, Natura Villas Near Dommasandra Circle Chambenahalli, Sarjapur Road Bengaluru - 562125 have changed my minor daughter's name from Japhia Beatris Jacob to Japhia Beatriz Jacob

I, GAJANANA R/at No.423, Subrahmanya, Honnavar, Mugva Surkatte, Uttara Kannada- 581334, have changed my name to GAJANANA HEGDE vide affidavit dated: 4/7/2023 Before Notary Anitha Bai Bangalore.

I, Mohammed Sanaulla s/o Abdul Mateen R/o 16/1/A, Mathru layout, 1st cross, Yelahanka new town, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to Mohamed Sanaulla affidavit Dt.02/08/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Narasappa S/o Devadasappa R/o 38, 5th cross, Ullal main road, Daninamande, Byadara - halli, Viswaneedam post, Bengaluru 560091 have changed my to NARASEGOWDA affidavit Dt.02/08/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, MD AAQUIB, Residing at No.14,Thimmaiah Road, Nehru Puram, Bengaluru-560001, have changed my name to MOHAMMED AAQUIB ASLAM, vide affidavit dated: 02.08.2023 before Notary V. Rajashekhara, Bengaluru.

I N Noor Jahan D/O, Naina Mohamed R/o 41, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, Chuna Lane, Lidkar Colony, K G Halli, Bengaluru - 560045 have changed my name to Noor Jahan for all purposes.

I, Sulochanamma Thippesha R/o #145, Ashirwad , 6th cross , B Block Sri Krishna Gardens R R Nagar B'luru-560059 have changed my name to Sulochana Thippesha vide affidavit dt 01/08/2023 before notary Harisha G .

LOST & FOUND

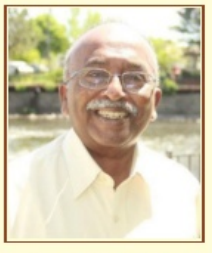
ದಾಖಲೆ ಕಳೆದಿದೆ

ಕನ್ನಡಸ್ಸ್. ಪಿ. ಬಿನ್ ಎಮ್.ಹೆರುಮಾಳ್ ಆದ ನಾನು ಇನ್‌ಕ್ಲೋವರ್ ಗ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಅಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್, ಎಸ್.ವಿ.ಮೆಟ್ರೋ ಸ್ಟೇಷನ್ ಹಿಂಭಾಗ, ಫ್ಲಾಟ್ ನಂ.ಟಿ–01, ಮನೆ ನಂ.2, ಬಿ.ಎಮ್. ಕಾವಲ್ ರೋಡ್, 1ನೇ ಕ್ರಾಸ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560038 ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ದಾಸಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಂಡೇನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.160/2ರಲ್ಲಿನ 1 ಎಕರೆ 30 ಗುಂಟೆ, ಖರಾಬ್ 0.04 ಗುಂಟೆ ಕೃಷಿ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಮೂಲ ಮಾರಾಟ ಪತ್ರ (ದಾಖಲೆ ನಂ.ಜಿಬಿಡಿ/1/02487/2006/7 ದಿನಾಂಕ 01.12.2006) ದಿನಾಂಕ 25.07.2023ರಂದು ಅಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಕಳೆದುಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಸಿಟಿ ಸೌಲೀಸರಿಗೆ ದೂರು (ಎಲ್‌ಆರ್ ನಂ.0658099/2023) ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಪತ್ರ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸ ಅಥವಾ ಮೊ.9449091226 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

OBITUARY

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED



Rev. Dr. M.B. Diwakar
05 May 1934 - 3 July 2023

It is with great sadness we announce the demise of Rev. Dr. Muthyala Benjamin Diwakar. We will miss his kind, patient and gentle soul. May he rest in peace.

28% GST on online gaming will remain

Taxation to be reviewed after 6 months of roll-out

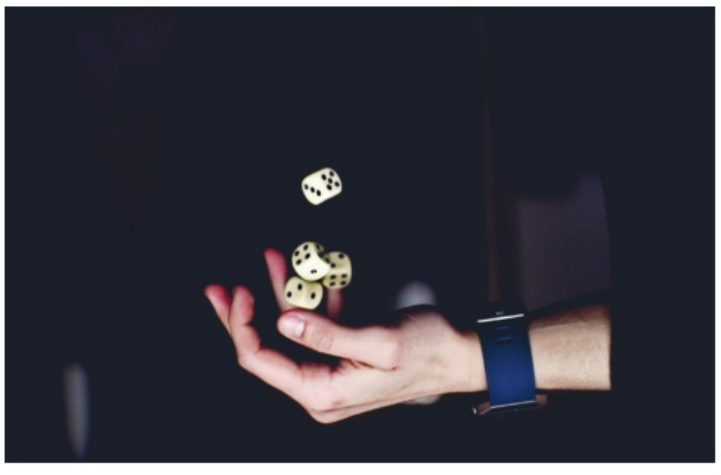
#New Delhi

The GST Council on Wednesday decided to levy a 28 per cent GST on online gaming and casinos on the face value of bets at entry level, even though three states -- Delhi, Goa and Sikkim -- expressed dissent.

The Centre will bring amendments to the Central GST law in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament, following which states will pass the amendments in their respective assemblies to pave way for introduction of changes in law by October 1.

"The valuation may be done based on the amount paid or payable or deposited with the supplier by or on behalf of the player, excluding the amount entered into games bets out of winnings of previous games and bets and not on the total value of each bets placed. Entry (level) whatever they pay to get chips and not what they pay in each game," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Giving an example, she said if a bet is placed for say Rs 1,000, and the player wins Rs 300, then if the player again places a bet of Rs 1,300, then GST will not be levied on the winning amount.



A review of the taxation of online gaming and casinos will be undertaken after 6 months or around April 2024 to see if any change in rules is required.

Revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra said that offshore gaming platforms will have to register themselves with the GST authorities. In case they do not follow the law, the government will invoke the provisions of the Information Technology Act to block those sites, Malhotra added.

The GST Council -- the highest decision making body of the new indirect tax regime that comprises Union finance minister and representatives of all states -- discussed the language of amendments that will be needed to enabling taxing of online gaming and casinos.

"We will undertake amendments to CGST Act at the earliest, in this session itself. From October 1, it will be implemented," Sitharaman said.

Malhotra said the amendments will specifically define online gaming, online money gaming, virtual digital assets used to pay for online games, and supplier in case of online gaming.

Sitharaman said Delhi finance minister opposed 28 per cent tax on online gaming and wanted the matter to go back to group of ministers. Goa and Sikkim, whose revenues come from casinos, said 28 per cent GST should be levied on GGR (gross gaming revenue) or platform fees and not on face value.

Sitharaman, however, said other states, including Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, wanted the decision taken at the Council meeting last month to be implemented at the earliest. **PTI**

"Valuation may be done based on the amount paid or payable or deposited with the supplier by the player, excluding the amount entered into bets out of winnings of previous games — Nirmala Sitharaman, minister

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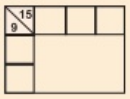
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

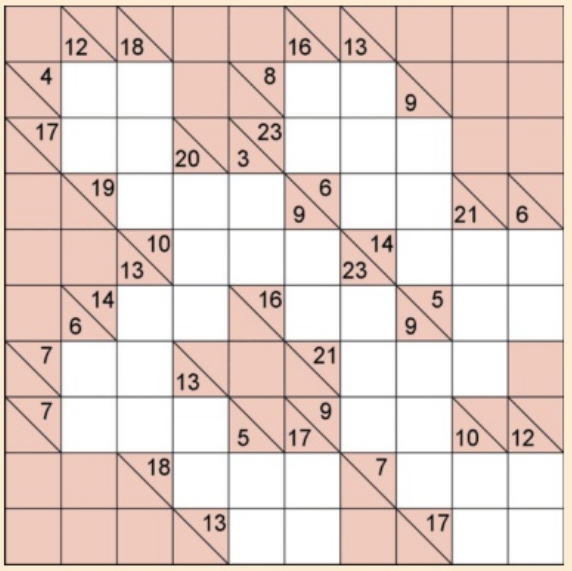
A bus starts out with 12 passengers. At the first stop, 2 get off and 3 get on. At the second stop 6 get off and 8 get on. The same pattern continues for 10 stops. The pattern is: at odd-numbered stops 2 times the stop number get off and 3 times the stop number get on, and at even-numbered stops 3 times the stop number get off and 4 times the stop number get on. How many passengers are on the bus when it leaves the tenth station?

Kakuro

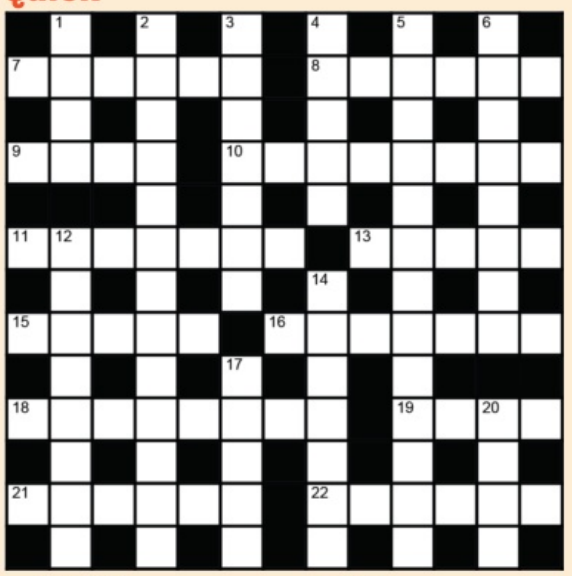
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Flag or placard or headline (6)
8 Masticated (6)
9 Ms Bhatt of Bollywood (4)
10 Person without equal (8)
11 Fully satisfy (7)
13 Singer David ___ (5)
15 Tends to droop (5)
16 Domestic waste (7)
18 Savage or wild (8)
19 Sitarist Shankar (4)
21 Haemorrhages (6)
22 Intercede (4,2)

DOWN

1 Attack bitterly (4)
2 Stomach settler (7,6)
3 One of two metro stations in the Ulsoor area (7)
4 Part of a play (5)
5 Animal used for carrying loads (5,2,6)
6 Educating, tutoring or coaching (8)
12 In a friendly way (8)
14 A sharply mocking or contemptuous remark (7)
17 To wrench away (5)
20 Empty space (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS G

MT OFXH FN NT NMQPMOFCV FM OHQXHN OFMMOH MFBH KTP QCDMIFCV HONH.

Linemaro

I am wearing the smile you gave me

Mindchow

Opportunities dance with those already on the dance floor

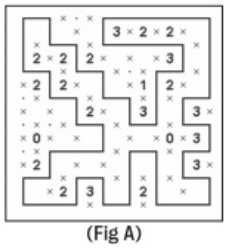
Joke of the day

Q: How do men sort their laundry?
A: 'Filthy' and 'Filthy but wearable'

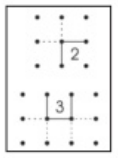
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



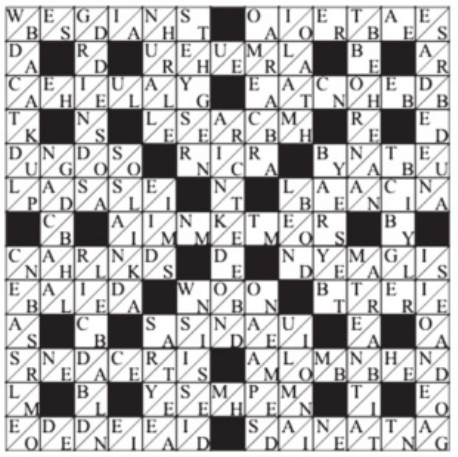
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

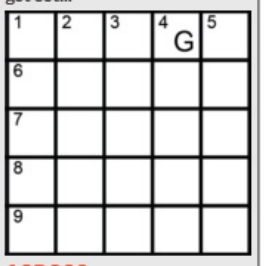
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

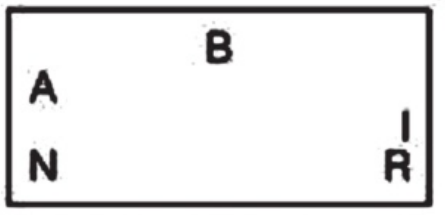
1 Nag SS; 6 Coral;
7 Terry; 8 Value;
9 By III

DOWN

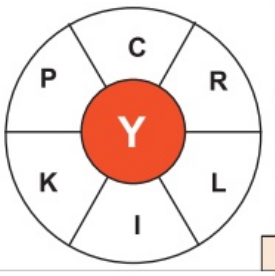
1 Curbs; 2 Naive;
3 Later; 4 Largo;
5 Ly S Ly

Mensapuzzle

What word is represented below?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		5	9				3	7
	6		4					
		9				1	4	
8				3	6		5	4
2	9		7	5				1
	4	6				8		
					5		9	
5	1				9	6		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

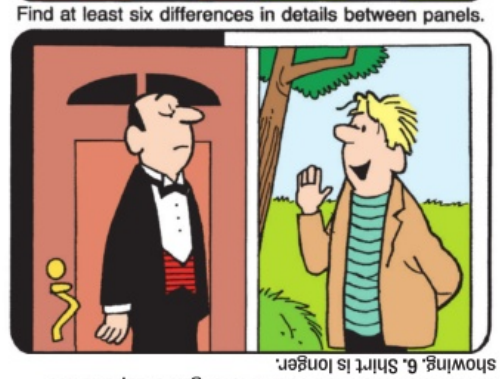
Easy = 5
3 3 3 8

Medium = 20
3 3 4 5

Hard = 12
2 7 8 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



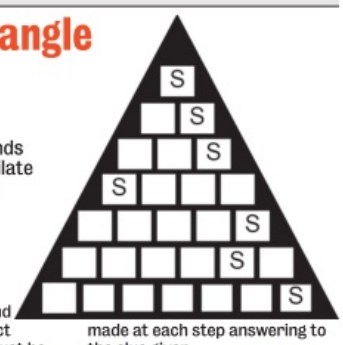
Differences: 1. Arm is not as long. 2. Buttons are added. 3. Vest is smaller. 4. Tree limb is longer. 5. Lapel is not showing. 6. Shirt is longer.

Riddler

Can you decipher the following common phrase?
L8AAAAPORVERYTANTD8

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Less more
3 Psyche parts
4 Flank
5 Changes or emends
6 Absorb or assimilate
7 Moves restlessly



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

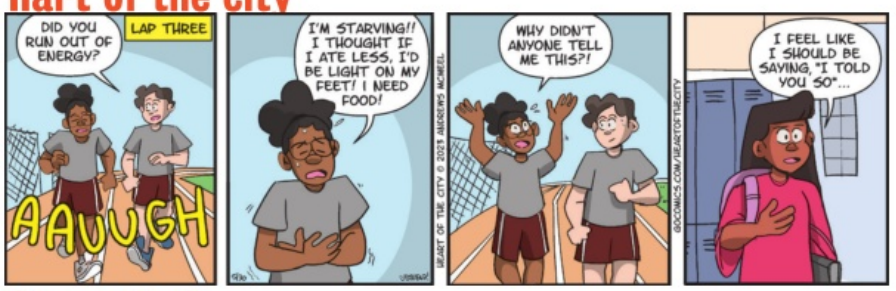
I HEAR MEDICINE MAN CAN GIVE FACE-LIFTS
YES, BUT I WOULDN'T ADVISE IT
WHY NOT ?
YOU PUT YOUR HEAD IN THAT AND HE PULLS YOUR LEGS
5-16

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

HERMAN'S FORTUNE COOKIES:
Your dreams will all come true, especially the naked at the DMV one.
5/26 ©2023 creators.com
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


DID YOU RUN OUT OF ENERGY?
LAP THREE
AAUUGH
I'M STARVING!! I THOUGHT IF I ATE LESS, I'D BE LIGHT ON MY FEET! I NEED FOOD!
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME THIS?!
I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE SAYING, "I TOLD YOU SO"...

Crankshaft

I CAN'T USE THE BATHROOM WITHOUT READING A NEWSPAPER!
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT READING A NEWSPAPER WHILE YOU'RE IN THE BATHROOM?
IT RELAXES ME!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

AS YOUR SCRIPT DOCTOR I SAY DOGS ARE OLD NEWS. WE NEED SOMETHING TODAY'S KIDS ARE INTO!
POOF!
EVERYONE DOES LOVE UNICORNS.
HE HAS A POINT.
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which could improve your financial health. You might find yourself more creative and use this creativity to decorate your office or home, enhancing your social status. Love birds may receive support from their family members in maintaining their relationship status. Students may receive good news in terms of academics.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy at work, and your wisdom may help you make the right decisions, leading to increased business success. There is a likelihood of receiving a big order, which could expand your workload. Additionally, you may utilize your creativity to renovate your home or office, thereby improving your social status. It is also a good time to consider investing in creative assets.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, positive moon may make you happy. You can use your patience at work, and your performance may be excellent, leading to the possibility of receiving incentives or rewards. Health-related issues of family members will be resolved at this time. Job aspirants are likely to secure good jobs. Lovebirds can look forward to enjoying their quality time together.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may bring you peace of mind. While you may face some work-related stress externally, your inner sense may remain calm and cool, helping you balance everything. You may enjoy every moment in both your work and domestic life. Additionally, some new sources of income may open up, which could help boost your savings.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, the situations are under control, and you may be able to come out of the messy situation from the past days. Your patience in handling things may reflect positively in your way of working. It could be a good day to plan for an outing. Students may have a strong focus towards their goals. For singles, there is a possibility of finding love with the help of friends or relatives.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may help needy people, which can increase your reputation in society. Implementing innovation in your work might lead to increased business prospects. Positive results can make you happy. Lovebirds may plan an outing or an adventurous tour together.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel dull and could face some old health issues. There is a possibility that you may become a victim of tiredness, which might lead to arrogance. Your arrogance may negatively impact your domestic harmony. Additionally, your profits may convert into losses, so it is advised to think twice before engaging in any financial transaction.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel unhappy and impatient, and you may experience mood swings, which could affect your domestic harmony. It is advised to avoid arrogance at work to prevent creating hidden enemies around you. Additionally, it is recommended to avoid rush driving for safety reasons.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and have a sense of detachment towards your responsibilities, leading to confusion. You may find yourself planning hypothetically for your projects, so it is advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. Additionally, take care of your parents and postpone any plans to migrate somewhere for a few days. It is also recommended to wait for a while before taking any major actions.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel inner strength and resilience. Your losses may convert into profits, leading to increased business growth and liquidity. With the support of your subordinates, you may be able to make some tough decisions in your business. Your performance at work may be praised by your seniors, and you can also expect to receive incentives, which will boost your savings.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel happy and spread happiness around you. There will be harmony in your personal life, and you may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Your family will support you in making important decisions, both personally and professionally. Additionally, you may expect some new ventures or partnerships in your business.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel enthusiastic and more focused, which can accelerate your postponed projects. Your siblings may support you in starting a new project, which could bring profits in the near future. Additionally, you may expect some short trips related to family matters. Job seekers may receive good news regarding a new job opportunity.

KIDZONE

David Raj, 13 Years, Samuel Public School

Vipul KR, 10 Years, Amar Jyothi English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
At each stop, the amount of people on the bus increases by the stop number. So at stop 1, we have 1 people, stop 2 we have 15 people, stop 3 we have 18 people, etc so stop 10 we have 67 people

RIDDLER
Late for a very important date! L B A A A VERY IN PORTANT D8

BULL'S EYE
lyric, picky, PRICKLY

FAST FIVE

S	N	A	G	S
C	A	R	O	L
R	E	T	R	Y
U	V	E	A	L
B	I	L	L	Y

STRIKE OUT

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E	L	I	A	W	O	N		T	R	E	E			
N	A	R	K	S		D	E	A	L	S				
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P	A	S	S	E		T		L	E	N	I	N		
U	N	D	O		R	C	A		B	A	B	E		
K	N		L	E	A	C	H		R		D			
C	H	I	L	L	Y		E	T	C	H	E	D		
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B	E	G	I	N	S		A	O	R	T	A	S		

QUICK

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	3		2		9		5		8		7		1	4
	8		7		1		2		3		6		9	5
	2		9		4		7		1		5		8	6
	6		5		3		1		9		4		7	2
	4		1		2		6		8		9		3	7

SUDOKU

5	1	2	8	4	9	6	7	3
7	3	8	6	1	5	4	9	2
9	4	6	3	7	2	8	1	5
2	9	4	7	5	8	3	6	1
6	5	3	1	9	4	7	2	8
8	7	1	2	3	6	9	5	4
3	2	9	5	8	7	1	4	6
1	6	7	4	2	3	5	8	9
4	8	5	9	6	1	2	3	7

MENSA PUZZLE
scatterbrain

QUOTE UNCODE
To live is so starting for it leaves little time for anything else.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 – 3 – 3 + 8 = 5
Medium
3 + 5 – 3 x 4 = 20
Hard
7 + 2 – 5 + 8 = 12

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Is, Ids, Side, Edits, Digest, Fidgets.

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Weighty secret Ayushmann Khurrana, who is set to reprise the role a woman in his upcoming film, says he has fast metabolism; only needs cardio, no carbs to lose weight

CELESTIAL BEAUTY

Find out all about how Disha Patani's ensemble for couture week was designed

It took couturier Dolly J and her team over a month to craft the shimmery silver contemporary lehenga for actor Disha Patani, an ensemble she wore for the designer at the seventh day of the FDCI Hyundai India Couture Week here.

Dolly J said she drew inspiration from the Moon, a timeless symbol of mystery, beauty, and wonder, for her latest clothing collection 'Selene', named after the Greek goddess of the celestial body. "We worked on it for over a month and we kept on trying different techniques, trying to get it right till we got the right silver. We had it in our mind but nobody could get it (for a while). So, we kept on trying and finally, we got the right shape and the right silver," the designer told PTI.

Disha wore a glittering thigh-high slit lehenga and a blouse with a plunging neckline along with a dupatta train. "We were working on the Selene goddess and we visualised her in a certain way. I thought Disha would do justice to it and she did," Dolly J added.

At the post-show press conference, Disha said she felt like a "goddess" wearing the couturier's creation. "This morning, if you would have seen me, you would have not recognised me because I was in my shorts and a loose T-shirt. I like being feminine and, at the same time, being myself. Right now, I feel feminine. I feel like a goddess, thanks to her and her beautiful design," the actor told reporters on Monday night.

The collection showcased gowns and lehengas with sculpted but flowing silhouettes. —PTI

BUSY BEE

Parineeti Chopra has finished shooting for Imtiaz Ali's Chamkila with Diljit Dosanjh a while ago. The film is based on singer Amar Singh Chamkila and Parineeti plays his wife Amarjot Kaur. And now, the buzz is that Parineeti has signed another project with Dinesh Vijan. Earlier this year, 'Shiddat 2' was announced with Sunny Kaushal and Parineeti Chopra. 'Shiddat' had Radhika Madan with Sunny and the sequel was meant to have Parineeti.

However, Parineeti's schedule couldn't match with the film and hence she had to back out of the project. As per a report in Pinkvilla, the duo amicably decided that they would team up for another project. Hence, now, the duo have teamed up for a musical film.

The project is set in the UK and is a female-driven script. The film will be shot in October 2023 in a start-to-finish schedule. More details on this project are still under wraps but this report has further suggested that Anupam Kher has an important part to play in it. The actress is expected to start shooting this film before her wedding which is reportedly in November. One had known that Parineeti along with fiance Raghav Chadha was scouting for wedding locations in Udaipur. However, she has blushed and remained tight lipped about the date of her wedding and other details, every time she has been asked that by the paparazzi.

—ETimes

From one queen to another

Queen of pop Madonna attended Beyonce Knowles' New Jersey show, in one of her first major public appearances since her hospitalisation five weeks ago.

Madonna, who confessed she's "lucky to be alive" this week, attended the Grammy winner's 'Renaissance World Tour' stop in East Rutherford, and received a special shoutout from the 'Formation' singer.

"Big shoutout to the Queen. Queen Mother, Madonna, we love you," Beyonce could be heard gushing in a viral clip on Twitter while performing 'Break My Soul', the song Madonna featured on a remix of last year, Aceshowbiz reported. Later, two music queens met up backstage where they posed for a photo along with Madonna's kids -- twins Stella and Estere, 10, and daughter Mercy, 17 -- and Beyoncé's youngest daughter, Rumi, 5.

—IANS

Nitin Desai:
August 9, 1965-July 3, 2023

CELEBS CONDOLE SHOCKING DEMISE

Bollywood celebrities are left in "shock" at the demise of renowned art director and production designer Nitin Chandrakant Desai, calling it a "heartbreaking news".

Desai was found hanging in a case of suspected suicide at his N.D. Studios here, early on Wednesday, official sources said. He was 57.

Condoling the death of Desai, Kangana Ranaut took to Instagram Stories and wrote: "Such a terrible news!! Beyond shocked..pained beyond words.. Om Shanti."

Sanjay Dutt tweeted: "Deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Nitin Desai. A brilliant art director and a good friend, his contribution to Indian cinema has been monumental. My thoughts are with his family and friends during this difficult time."

Madhur Bhandarkar said: "Just heard the devastating news about the passing of multiple National award-winner Art Director Nitin Desai. It's hard to believe. Had the privilege of working with him on four remarkable films... We will miss you Dada. #OmShanti."

— IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Unique teaser

The stage is set for the release of Real Star Upendra-starrer Buddhivantha 2 today. The sequel to Buddhivantha released in 2008 is bankrolled by TR Chandrashekhar under the banner Crystal Park Cinemas while it is helmed by Jayadev aka Jayaram Madhavan.

Jayadev told BM he was lucky to get a chance to handle the megaphone for this movie. "I am making my debut in Sandalwood as a director with Buddhivantha 2. The movie Buddhivantha was released 15 years ago and I did not know much about Sandalwood at that time. I thank Upendra for his support during the shoot. Upendra, known for encouraging newcomers, used to help me a lot. There were occasions when we both discussed the script at the locations," said Jayadev.

Jayadev said the film's teaser is unique. "We tried to showcase Upendra in a different look. I still remember how Upendra has appreciated me after coming to know about my concept. The 1.30-minute long teaser of the movie will be released on YouTube," the director said.

He said Upendra and Srinagar Kitty vied with each other to showcase their talent.

New diction

Abhishek Ambareesh released the trailer of the film Bayaluseeme on Monday. Abhishek appreciated the cast and crew of the movie after watching its trailer. Director Varun Kattimani said he felt very happy when Abhisekh appreciated the concept and dialogues. The movie's dialogues are laced with North Karnataka diction.

"We shot the movie for 59 days in and around important cities in North Karnataka. This will remain a unique movie in Sandalwood because of the dialogues and the performance of actors. I am very happy with the positive response to the trailer launched three days ago. The movie will be like Khanavali food for audiences," said Kattimani.

According to the director, the shooting and post-production work is completed and the movie is scheduled for release on August 18. "I play the lead too. Bayaluseeme is my second movie as a director," he said.

The movie has ensemble of artists including Samyukta Horanad, the female lead, Ravi Shankar, TS Nagabharana, Yash Shetty, Bhavani Prakash, Lakshmi Nadagoudar, Archana Kottige, Santosh Uppin, Nagaraj Bhat and Mahesh Doddakalnvar.